

**MINUTES OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
August 13, 2026**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Russ Fisher, Debbie Condado, Michael Tautges, Ted Cushing and Linnaea Newman.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: NA

OTHERS PRESENT: Sheriff Grady Hartman, Chad Lynch, Cambrya Hurlburt, Marguerite Lyskawa, Honorable Judge Michael Schiek, Patti Finlan, Honorable Judge Mary Sowinski, Tracy Hartman, Brenda Behrle

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Fisher called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. at the Oneida County Courthouse, Committee Room #2, stated the meeting notice had been posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and noted accommodations would be made for handicap accessibility.

APPROVE AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the Agenda (Newman/Condado, PASSED 4-0).
Tautges arrived after the vote was taken.

APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the July 9, 2026, Committee Meeting Minutes (Condado/Cushing, PASSED 5-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments/concerns, only staff members present.

SCHEDULE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE(S)

The next meeting was scheduled for September 10, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

BILLS, VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS

Chairperson Fisher notes all vouchers and line item transfers were received and within budget. No concerns and no vote taken.

BRANCH I

2027 Budget Request – No longer asking for a law clerk. Branch I has always budgeted for a law clerk; however, for the past two years there have not been any applications. This position had been split between Vilas and Oneida counties, with each county paying a portion of the funds. Vilas County will no longer be submitting any funds and with only half of the budgeted amount, Branch I cannot be competitive. Branch I is requesting \$14,000.00 to be used for Court Commissioners' help.

MOTION: To pass the 2027 Budget Request as presented to move on to the Executive Committee for Budget Hearing (Cushing/Tautges, PASSED: 5-0).

BRANCH II

2027 Budget Request
Exhibit # 1 – Department Budget

The difference between Branch I and Branch II's budget request is that Branch II is retaining funds and hiring LTE Clerks and law students. Having interns in the building to learn the individuals and processes involved is important. Branch II would like to retain some funds to retain attorney Andrew Kaftan for more individual projects. Both Branch I and Branch II have a heavy work load and are understaffed. This is expected to change as court hearings are transferred to Court Commissioners. Further discussion occurred in regard to Branch II's 2027 Budget Request.

MOTION: To pass as presented to move on to the Executive Committee for Budget Hearing. (Cushing/Condado, PASSED: 5-0).

CORPORATION COUNSEL

2027 Budget Request – The biggest change to Corporation Counsel's budget is that Andrew Kaftan is retiring. Corporation Counsel is currently assessing on whether or not to fill this position. Corporation Counsel is requesting \$14,000.00 to be moved to legal fees for incoming cases. The year-end projections would be lower if Kaftan's position is not filled. Further discussion occurred in regard to Corporation Counsel's 2027 Budget Request.

MOTION: To pass as presented to move on to the Executive Committee for Budget Hearing. (Condado/Tautges, PASSED: 5-0).

MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE

Opioid Funds for Medical Examiner's Office Morgue Project – The Medical Examiner's Office would like to use a portion of the Opioid Abatement Funds for Medical Examiner infrastructure. A strong Medical Examiner infrastructure equals better data, faster insights and a more efficient use of abatement funds. Rising caseloads strain death investigation

resources, which include toxicology and body handling. The items requested are wider transport cots, a lab grade toxicology fridge and a morgue cooler. The Medical Examiner's Office has already exceeded the entire previous year's budget. The total estimated costs with added contingency equals \$85,000.00. Further discussion occurred in regard to the Medical Examiner's Office utilizing a portion of the Opioid Abatement Funds for Medical Examiner infrastructure.

MOTION: To move to Executive Committee using Opioid Funds up to \$100,000.00 for continued maintenance. (Newman/Cushing, PASSED: 5-0).

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Radio Tower Maintenance Contract, Reclassification of Evidence Technician position, Reclassification of Telecommunications Lieutenant position, Mechanic position and Proposal for a Tower on County Property
Exhibit # 2 – 2026 Non-Exempt Wage Schedule for Oneida County
Exhibit # 3 – Proposed Tower Location Map

Discussion occurred in regard to options with radio tower maintenance and contracts, cost savings by reclassifying three positions at the Oneida County Sheriff's Office and the options for leasing county land for a proposed tower.

MOTION: No vote taken

PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A, No public present

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Oneida County Sheriff's Office Budget

ADJOURN

10:51 a.m.

Russ Fisher, Chairperson

Desiree Duwe, Committee Secretary

Michael Tautges, Vice-Chairperson